

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUDAPE 00537 190917Z

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ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5311

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, HU

SUBJ: MUTUAL HUNGARIAN/U.S. DIPLOMATIC/OFFICIAL VISA FACILITATION

REF: STATE 31136, BUDAPEST 0441, BUDAPEST 0200

1. FOLLOWING UP ON THE EXCELLENT SUGGESTION IN THE DEPARTMENT'S REFTEL RE MULTIPLE-ENTRY VISAS, CONSULAR SECTION CHIEF BROACHED THE MATTER ORALLY AND INFORMALLY WITH MFA CONSULAR DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVE ON FEBRUARY 12. CONSUL PITCHED MULTIPLE-ENTRIES POSSIBLY AS THE NEXT ORDER OF BUSINESS FOLLOWING ANTICIPATED USG-GOH AGREEMENT ON OTHER FACETS OF VISA FACILITATION (BUDAPEST 0200 AND PREVIOUS). MFA OFFICIAL REPLIED GENERALLY THAT GOH WAS INTERESTED IN ANY SUCH FACILITATION IN THE SPIRIT OF HELSINKI.

2. THE CURRENT USG-GOH VISA NEGOTIATION (BUDAPEST 0200) REMAINS BOGGED DOWN WITH THE BALL IN THE HUNGARIANS' COURT, DESPITE NUMEROUS PREVIOUS GOH OFFICIAL OBSERVATIONS TO EMBASSY OFFICE RS

THAT THE GOH WAS READY TO MOVE TOWARD VISA FACILITATION AS FAST AND AS FAR AS THE USG DID. EMBASSY DOUBTS THAT HUNGARIANS WERE REALLY TALKING THROUGH THEIR HATS. RATHER, THE DELAY APPEARS ATTRIBUTABLE TO CLASSIC MAGYAR BUREAUCRATIC INTRICACIES, COMPLICATED POSSIBLY BY FACT THAT FOREIGN MINISTER PUJA WAS OUT OF TOWN TO A FEW DAYS AGO. MFA OFFICIAL TOLD CONSUL FEBRUARY 12 THAT VISA PROPOSAL WAS CURRENTLY BEING SCREENED BY INTERIOR

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PAGE 02 BUDAPE 00537 190917Z

MINISTRY.

3. COMMENT. EMBASSY'S PRESENT INTENT IS TO CARRY
CURRENT DIPLOMATIC/OFFICIAL VISA FACILITATION NEGOTIATION
THROUGH TO CONCLUSION BEFORE FORMALLY ADDRESSING MULTIPLE-
ENTRY QUESTION. EMBASSY IS, HOWEVER, LINING UP NEGOTIATING
POINTS FOR FUTURE PRESENTATION, AS, FOR EXAMPLE, USG GRANTING
OF MULTIPLE ENTRY VISAS OVER PAST FIVE YEARS TO HUNGARIAN
AIRLINES (MALEV) REPRESENTATIVE IN NEW YORK.
MCAULIFFE

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